

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 have been examined on their merits.

Applicant herein amends claims 1, 5-7, 11, 15-17 and 21 to more clearly recite that the individualized specification information received from each provider is directed to the component associated with its respective provider. In other words, a particular individualized specification information is directed to its associated component, and not to the multi-component product itself.

Claims 1-21 are all the claims presently pending in the application.

1. Claims 1-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hecksel *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,151,707) in view of Japanese Patent Publication No. Heisei 10-301996 (hereinafter JP '996).¹ Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 1-21 for at least the reasons discussed below.

The Patent Office acknowledges that Hecksel *et al.* fail to teach or suggest receiving specification information that specifies at least one data item required by a plurality of companies for user registration. *See* May 6, 2004 Non-Final Office Action, page 5. The Patent Office Asserts that JP '996 allegedly overcomes the acknowledged deficiencies of Hecksel *et al.*

¹ The May 6, 2005 Office Action lists Call as the patentee. However, Haruki Hiroshi *et al.* are the listed inventors of the subject matter described in JP '996. U.S. Patent No. 5,913,210 was issued to Call, and the February 18, 2004 Rule 114(c) Amendment has overcome the earlier claim rejections based on the combination of Hecksel *et al.* and Call.

The Patent Office acknowledges that Hecksel *et al.* fail to teach or suggest at least a to-be-registered information generating section that receives specification information from a plurality of companies, wherein the individualized specification information received from each company specifies at least one data item that is required for user registration. The Patent Office alleges that JP '996 provides the necessary disclosure to overcome the acknowledged deficiencies of Hecksel *et al.*

With respect to claim 1, the combination of Hecksel *et al.* and JP '996 fail to teach or suggest at least individualized specification information for each company specifies at least one data item required for user registration of the component provided by that company for the multicomponent product, extracting the specified data item for each individualized specification information from the user information stored in a database, and generating, all at once, to-be registered information required by each company for user registration based on its individualized specification information. The deficiencies of Hecksel *et al.* have already been acknowledged by the Patent Office, and will not be discussed further. JP '996 does not teach or suggest the receiving of individualized specification information from a plurality of companies, wherein the individualized specification information specifies the data needed by each company for registering that company's portion of a multi-component product. JP '996 discloses, *inter alia*, a user registration tool (15) that provides user information to a master database (17) and a software provider registration tool (19) that accesses the master database. JP '996 fails to teach or suggest, however, that the software provider registration tool sends individualized specification information to the master database for each provider of a component of a multi-component

product being registered. Furthermore, the user registration tool does not send individualized specification information from providers to a registration information generating section. While the Patent Office points to paragraphs 0002-0004 and 0017-0020 of JP '996 as disclosing the invention recited in claim 1, Applicant submits that those paragraphs do not teach or suggest the claimed invention. JP '996 states that, in order to register a product, a purchaser would have to fill out a postcard and forward it to the manufacturer. Instead of using a post card, JP '996 discloses a system whereby registration information for a product is registered electronically with the product manufacturer through a network connection. *See, e.g.*, para. [0018] of JP '996. JP '996 lacks any teaching or suggestion, however, of simultaneously generating registration information for each component of a multi-component product based on individualized registration information for each component. JP '996 is directed to a product, and not the individualized components that might comprise that product. In sum, neither Hecksel *et al.* nor JP '996, either alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the receipt of individualized specification information for a specific component of a multi-component product and the simultaneous generation of registration information for each component based on the received individualized specification information. Furthermore, with respect to claim 10, the combination of Hecksel *et al.* and JP '996 fail to teach or suggest specification information concerning a product demanded by the user, one or more companies that can supply the product demanded by the user and information regarding the product demanded by the user is sent to a company extracted from the information generating section. Thus, Applicant submits that the Patent

Office cannot fulfill the “all limitations” prong of a *prima facie* case of obviousness, as required by *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 493, 20 U.S.P.Q.2d 1438, 1442 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

Applicant submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the two references. The only motivational analysis provided by the Patent Office is that the combination of Hecksel *et al.* and JP ‘996 would reduce the cost of user registration and user service operation. However, the combination of Hecksel *et al.* and JP ‘996 only teaches or suggests the registration of products *in seratim*. There is no motivation to combine the references to generate registration information for a single product comprised of multiple components, wherein registration information for each of the components is generated simultaneously. Thus, Applicant submits that the Patent Office cannot fulfill the motivation prong of a *prima facie* case of obviousness, as required by *In re Dembiczak*, 175 F.3d 994, 999, 50 U.S.P.Q.2d 1614, 1617 (Fed. Cir. 1999) and *In re Zurko*, 258 F.3d 1379, 1386, 59 U.S.P.Q.2d 1693, 1697-98 (Fed. Cir. 2001).

Based on the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the combination of Hecksel *et al.* and JP ‘996 fails to teach or suggest all of the claimed elements as arranged in claim 1. Thus Applicant submits that claim 1 is allowable, and further submits that claims 2-10 are allowable as well, at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests that the Patent Office withdraw the § 103(a) rejection of claims 1-10.

With respect to independent claim 11, Applicant submits that claim 11 is allowable for at least reasons analogous to those discussed above with respect to claim 1, in that the combination of Hecksel *et al.* and JP ‘996 fails to teach or suggest the receipt of individualized specification

information for a specific component of a multi-component product and the simultaneous generation of registration information for each component based on the received individualized specification information. Furthermore, with respect to claim 20, the combination of Hecksel *et al.* and JP '996 fail to teach or suggest a method that uses specification information concerning a product demanded by the user, one or more companies that can supply the product demanded by the user and information regarding the product demanded by the user is sent to a company extracted from the information generating section. Thus, Applicant submits that claim 11 is allowable, further submits that claims 12-20 are allowable as well, at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 11. Applicant respectfully requests that the Patent Office withdraw the § 103(a) rejection of claims 11-20.

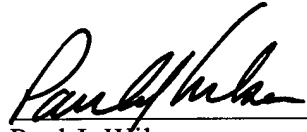
With respect to independent claim 21, Applicant submits that claim 21 is allowable for at least reasons analogous to those discussed above with respect to claim 1, in that the combination of Hecksel *et al.* and JP '996 fails to teach or suggest the receipt of individualized specification information for a specific component of a multi-component product and the simultaneous generation of registration information for each component based on the received individualized specification information. Thus, Applicant submits that claim 21 is allowable, and respectfully request that the Patent Office withdraw the § 103(a) rejection of claim 21.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. APPLICATION NO. 09/838,342
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q64164

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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